(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Revised scales of pay

150 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the minimum benefit of Rs. 5 in total emoluments under the revised scales of pay is applicable to watchmen, sweepers and gardeners in aided secondary schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The matter is under consideration.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the peons in permanent employment in the aided schools eligible for this increase?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.

Local board secondary schools

* 151 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the total number of local board secondary schools in the State with twenty-five sections and more?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, the question is about the number of schools. May I take it that there are no schools?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry, Sir, the number is 50.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware of the fact, Sir, that in spite of the large strength in the schools, the headmasters of these institutions are not paid on a par with the headmasters of aided institutions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not a question of payment of headmasters on a par with some other institution. The question of revision of scales of pay for the various categories of Government servants including headmasters was gone into by the Pay Commission and the pay scales have been fixed according to the recommendations of the Commission.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that there is still the disparity and do the Government justify that disparity?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It cannot be taken as a disparity. Government servants have certain other privileges. Mere scale of pay cannot be compared with what is prevailing in other spheres.